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the fainter stars are included. Thus, expressing the total number of stars down to the magnitude m inclusive, by the well-known form $a\ b^m$, b has been found to be 3.9 down to the ninth magnitude.

It is also true for the lower grade of the Cordoba *Durchmusterung*, as that includes a large proportion below the tenth magnitude. In this count of fainter stars, b drops at once below 3: and averages 1.5 from 11 magnitude to 17 magnitude. If the ratio in the number of fainter stars fails to increase, it would appear to indicate that our telescopes are reaching the confines of the stellar system. And that in place of extending to greater depths, the smaller or less bright objects, intrinsically, within the limits already explored, are being brought within our ken. No hypothesis of this character admits of proof at present. If the stars are, in general, uniformly distributed, and if their brightness depends mainly upon their distance from us, the number of fainter stars should keep up the ratio.

But we know that the brightest stars are not universally the nearest; and uniform distribution cannot be proved. There is undoubtedly great variety of size, and probably of intrinsic brightness. Should a count of faint stars, based upon more complete material, fail to show more of an increase in number than could fairly be assumed as due to the variety of size and brilliancy of the stars in regions already known, it would seem probable that we are penetrating no farther into space.

R. H. TUCKER.

15-INCH REFRACTOR FOR THE OBSERVATORY OF KOENIGSBERG.

A private letter from Professor HERMANN STRUVE, Director of the Observatory, notifies that there is a prospect that the Koenigsberg Observatory may soon possess a refractor of fifteen inches aperture.

E. S. H.

SUSPENSION OF THE "AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL."

The editors of the *American Metereological Journal* announce that the publication will cease with the number for April, 1896, (which completes volume XII). The *Journal* has been carried on at a loss (which has been borne by the editors) and the present step has been decided upon because there seems to be no present prospect that the periodical will be self-supporting.

The *Journal* has been of distinct benefit to science in many respects and a credit to its editors and to the United States. Its suspension is very regrettable. But it is a wise step. There is no reason why private persons should bear the serious expense of producing it. The successive editors deserve, and will receive, the thanks of their fellow-men of science. E. S. H.

ERRATA IN STAR CATALOGUES.

BD. — 6° 5269. This star is stated to be in WEISSE'S Catalogue of BESSEL'S stars, but is not found there.

WEISSE'S BESSEL I, 19^h 1088.

RUNKLE in his list of errata published in the *Astronomical Journal*, Vol. III, page 115, changes the Declination of this star. I used it as a comparison star in observing Comet *c*, 1895, and find that its place as given in WEISSE'S catalogue agrees with the Munich reductions of LAMONT'S observations of this star, and also with BESSEL'S original zone observations. Hence, RUNKLE'S correction seems to be erroneous.

C. D. PERRINE.

LICK OBSERVATORY, March 21, 1896.

ELEMENTS OF COMET *c*, 1895, (PERRINE).

The following elements are based upon Mr. PERRINE'S observations of November 17 and December 7, 1895, and March 10, 1896, at Mount Hamilton.

$$T = 1895,\ \text{Dec.}\ 18.32670\ \text{Gr. M. T.}$$

$$\left.\begin{array}{l} \omega = 272^\circ\ 40'\ 23''.4 \\ \Omega = 320\ \ 30\ \ 47\ .6 \\ i = 141\ \ 36\ \ 39\ .5 \end{array}\right\}\ 1896.0$$

$$\log q = 9.283259$$

$$\begin{array}{l} x = r\,[9.963187]\,\sin\,(\ 35^\circ\ 31'\ 42''.1 + v) \\ y = r\,[9.996428]\,\sin\,(128\ \ 42\ \ \ 5\ .4 + v) \\ z = r\,[9.618080]\,\sin\,(235\ \ \ 5\ \ 54\ .1 + v) \end{array}$$

Residuals for the middle place (o — c)

$$\cos\beta\,\Delta\lambda = +\,1''.5 \qquad \Delta\beta = +\,1''.9.$$

R. G. AITKEN.

LICK OBSERVATORY, March 24, 1896.